

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being allegedly anticipated by Wells (U.S. Patent No. 3,568,136). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rectangular base portion 21 where a part of embedded portion 31 of the contact 30 is embedded, while both end portions (card connection portion 32 and lead wire connection portion 33) of the contact 30 are exposed is an essential structure of the present invention.

However, the connector of the cited reference does not have a rectangular base portion embedding a part of a contact in the first place, and the alignment of contacts is completely different. Specifically, a first communication hole 215 is positioned on one surface of the base portion to expose a part of the embedded portion 31, while a second communication hole 216 is positioned opposite to the first communication hole sandwiching the embedded portion on the other surface of the base portion as for the present invention. On the other hand, an outer hole 4 and an inner hole 4 are positioned next to the contact.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claims 1 and 11 as amended and as discussed immediately above. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawn claims 3 and 9 have been amended to include the features of currently amended 1. Thus, the method for producing a connector is the connector recited in claim 1. Because withdrawn claims 3 and 9 are linked to currently amended claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims to the application.

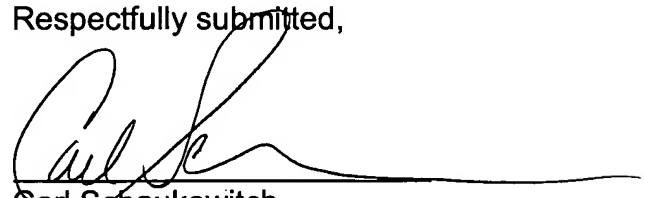
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 15, 2005

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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